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LETTER DATED 29 MARCH 1993 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF AZERBAIJAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to transmit to you the text of the note of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Azerbaijani Republic on 27 March 1993 concerning the recent large-scale attacks and violation of the State borders of the Azerbaijani Republic by the armed forces of the Republic of Armenia.

I would be grateful if you could have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Hassan A. HASSANOV
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex

[Original: Russian]

Note of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs
of the Azerbaijani Republic

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Azerbaijani Republic deems it necessary to state the following to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Armenia:

On 23 March 1993, after violating the State border of the Azerbaijani Republic, Armenian armed forces undertook a large-scale offensive with the use of artillery and armoured equipment in the direction of the Zangelan district of the Azerbaijani Republic. As a result of this offensive, the villages of Ashagi Geyali and Dzhanbar were occupied and the district centre of Zangelan has been subjected to incessant artillery bombardment. Following this, during the night of 26 to 27 March, the uninterrupted bombardment of the populated areas of Soyudlu, Soyukbulak, Ashagi Airum and Dikyurt in the Kelbadzhar district of Azerbaijan began from three directions in the territory of the Vardenis district of Armenia with the use of heavy-artillery guns and "Grad" installations. Soon after the artillery preparation, three armed military helicopters of the Armenian forces violated the State border of Azerbaijan and shelled the villages referred to. There is considerable destruction and a number of victims.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Azerbaijani Republic views this latest military action as a blatant violation of all the international norms laid down in the Charter of the United Nations and the principles of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) and considers that it is designed to undermine the negotiation process aimed at settling the conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan within the CSCE framework. By expanding the area of conflict to include the entire length of the border between Armenia and Azerbaijan, the Republic of Armenia has once again demonstrated its determination to settle the conflict through force.

In this connection, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Azerbaijani Republic registers a strong protest with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Armenia and states that such a position on the part of the leaders of the Republic of Armenia forces the Azerbaijani Republic to take adequate measures to protect the territorial integrity of its State. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Azerbaijani Republic stresses that the Republic of Armenia is completely and entirely responsible for all the possible consequences of a further escalation of the conflict.

Baku, 27 March 1993